

Weekly report for week ending April 4, 2014.

Office Name ORA	Activity	Press Interest/Coverage
Congressional/Intergovernmental	BP Whiting Oil Spill	No press.
	Not responsive	
Not responsive		

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ORA Weekly Report

BP Whiting Oil Spill: During the weeks of March 24 and 31, Congressional staff continued to update interested offices, responded to inquiries regarding the oil spill, and coordinated and led second conference call.

Sen. Durbin SS Badger Inquiry: On April 2, Congressional staff discussed the status of the Badger's coal ash discharge with Sen. Durbin's staff.

FutureGen Class VI Well Announcement: On March 31, Congressional staff notified federal, state, and local officials of EPA's draft permit announcement and responded to related questions.

Rep. Jordan Inquiry Regarding Constituent Pond: On March 31, Congressional staff assisted Rep. Jordan's staff with identifying the appropriate Army Corps of Engineers staff with whom to discuss a potential wetlands matter.

Sen. Durbin Corps Chicago River Project Inquiry: On April 1, Congressional staff, working with ORC and SFD, responded to an inquiry from Sen. Durbin's staff regarding the status of EPA's activity related to a Chicago River South Branch project.

Sen. Portman Propoxur Inquiry: On March 31, Congressional staff followed up on a prior inquiry from Sen. Portman's office by sharing a HQ letter to Ohio Dept of Agriculture regarding the use of propoxur to treat bed bugs.

Sen. Stabenow GLRI Funding Inquiry: On March 28, Congressional staff responded to a time-sensitive appropriations-related inquiry regarding GLRI project funding from Sen. Stabenow's staff.

Opposition to Petition for Cumulative Effects Assessment of Mining in Lake Superior Basin: On February 28, Minnesota Mining, an industry trade association, wrote to EPA Region 5 opposing the December 16 request to EPA Region 5, from a coalition of 59 environmental, community, civic, and other organizations, to prepare a cumulative effects assessment of impacts from mining activities in the Lake Superior Basin. Congressmen Ellison (MN) and McCollum (MN) support such an assessment. Minnesota Mining argued that such a study would be unwieldy in geographic scope, not useful for EPA decision-making, and not needed to fulfill the requirements under the National Environmental Policy Act for individual projects' environmental impact statements to evaluate cumulative impacts from other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions. We have taken the request under advisement.

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